



HORTICULTURE: PRICE MONITORING REPORT

Weekly Edition (15 -19 June 2020)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is a statutory body mandated to regulate and develop the agronomic and horticulture industry in Namibia, in accordance with the Agronomic Industry Act, Act 20 of 1992. In pursuance of our mandate and the strategic objectives pertaining to the provision of efficient information services, the NAB embarked on weekly monitoring of farm gate and retail prices for the following controlled crops: **Potato, Onion, Tomato, Cabbage, Butternuts, English Cucumber, Carrot and Sweet Potato**. It is worth noting that, the provision of weekly commodity average prices is aimed at providing information, guidance and advice to producers and traders of controlled horticultural products and other interested parties. Therefore, this report highlighted the average retail and farm gate prices for the week of 15 -19 June 2020.

2. COMMODITY AVERAGE PRICES

Table 1 indicates the latest average prices for the listed controlled crops. The results revealed that, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, cabbages and English cucumber are among the crops that are trading high relative to potatoes, onions, butternut and carrots. It is worth noting that, the price of horticulture commodities varies and is determined by the basic principles of market supply and demand. This implies that, any change in supply and demand can result in a significant change in price. For instance, poor weather conditions can reduce supply and cause a rise in price. Conversely, good weather can lead to glut on the market and fall in price. Also, commodity price is driven

by quality, seasonality, cost of production and logistical costs (e.g. transportation or storage costs) amongst others. Therefore, producers are advised to analyse their production cost meticulously and attach fair price above production cost. Besides, it is important to note that, retail price is stemmed from farm gate price. Thus, producers and retailers are encouraged to trade fairly and ensure sustainability in their business operations respectively.

Table 1: Retail and farm gate average price per controlled product.

No	Name of fresh produce	Average Retail Price	Average Farm gate
1	Potatoes	13.0/kg	6.7/kg
2	Onion	15.3/kg	6.8/kg
3	Tomatoes	29.3/kg	9.2/kg
4	Cabbage	23.2/head	10/head
5	Butternut	11.9/kg	4.9/kg
6	English cucumber	20.5/fruit	8.9/fruit
7	Carrot	22.1/kg	6.9/kg
8	Sweet potatoes	34.7/kg	9.5/kg

Source: NAB,2020

Note: The average retailer prices indicated in table 1 includes 15% of Value Added Tax (VAT).

3. CONCLUSION

Although some crops have limited time windows when they are ripe and ready to be harvested, it is important for Producers to identify months with greater glut, or scarcity for each crop. This will ensure proper production planning such that produce enter the market at appropriate time.

